SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

Lever Switch

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to lever switches that are used for detecting the presence or absence of a recording medium or detecting an action of a mechanism in various electronic apparatuses.

Background of the Invention

Recently, a variety of electronic apparatuses, such as videocassette recorders and personal computers, have been downsized and sophisticated. This trend requires lever switches used for detection to be more compact and slimmer as well as to work with reliability. The lever switches detect the presence or absence of recording media such as a tape or a disc, or detect an action of a mechanism in the apparatus. One of the conventional lever switches of this kind is disclosed in Japanese Utility Model Application Publication No. H04 – 27540.

This kind of conventional lever switch is described hereinafter with reference to Fig. 6 through Fig. 9. Fig. 6 shows a sectional view illustrating a structure of the conventional lever switch, and Fig. 7 shows a perspective view of the lever switch shown in Fig. 6. Fig. 8 shows a sectional view illustrating a structure when the lever switch shown in Fig. 6 is in operation, and Fig. 9 shows a schematic diagram illustrating that force is applied to the lever switch from behind, as shown in Fig. 6.

In Fig. 6, box-shaped housing 51 made of insulating resin has opening 511. Shaft 521 located at a middle section of lever 52 is rotatably held by housing 51. Driving section 522 on the lower face of lever 52 is accommodated in housing 51, while operating section 523 of lever 52 projects